[Translation]

NTC Mills

*44. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of NTC mills alongwith the number of workers working therein;

(b) the total capital invested by the Union Government in these mills and the total amount of losses incurred upto March, 1996;

(c) the present status of the revival package which was approved for NTC mills earlier;

(d) whether the Government propose to adopt an interim plan to revive the ailing units of NTC;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amount spent for revival and modernisation of these mills during the last three years and the funds earmarked for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) The NTC has under its control 120 mills with a total strength of 1,10,661 employees, including 99,709 workers.

(b) As on 31.3.1996, government has invested an amount of Rs.512.10 crores as share capital in NTC. The Government have also given till date an amount of Rs.2560.23 crores as loan for working capital requiements interim liquidity, wages and salaries, etc.

(c) The Turn Around 'Strategy for modernisation of NTC mills approved by the Government on 9.5.1995 has been placed before the BIFR for its approval. The package is under consideration of the BIFR.

(d) No, Sir. There is presently no interim plan to revive the NTC Mills.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The rehabilitation package placed before the BIFR envisages on outlay of Rs.2005.72 crores which will be met out of the proceeds from sale of surplus lands and assets. As the package is yet to be approved by the BIFR, Government has not sanctioned any amount for revival and modernisation of NTC mills during the last three years.

[English]

Privatisation of Insurance Sector

45. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal for privatisation of the Insurance sector, particularly the Life Insurance;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal;

(c) whether some foreign companies have made offers to the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction to each of these offers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Under the existing Law, both Life and General insurance business are the exclusive privilege respectively of the Life Insurance Corporation of India and the General Insurance Corporation of India, together with its four subsidiaries.

1. The Common Minimum Programme (CMP) of the Government lays down that :

> "There is room for public sector companies and private sector companies to co-exist and compete in the financial sector. We have gained considerable experience in the working of the banking sector. The said experience will be applied to the restructuring of the insurance industry, but at the same time, public sector companies like LIC, GIC etc. will be strengthened."

3. During the Budget speech in July, 1996, it was stated that :

> "An interim, non-statutory Insurance Regulatory Authority was set up in January 1996. I now propose to introduce a Bill to make it a statutory body and to empower it suitably. When I return to the subject of insurance in the next Budget, I shall address some of the policy parameters outlined in the CMP, including the sequence of steps for the restructuring of the insurance industry".

4. Government is currently processing a Bill for giving statutory basis to the Insurance Regulatory Authority. Other measures for reforms of the insurance sector, are being examined in consultation with the Insurance Regulatory Authority.

Fanancial Embezzlements in Banks

*46. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :
SHRI K.V. SURENDRA NATH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.1155 dated July 19,1996 regarding financial embezzlements in banks and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the information is likely to be placed on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The inforamtion has since been collected. Information relating to bank-wise